THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) US President has on 5th March, 2002 decided to impose safeguard duties on a broad range of steel products imported into USA. However, the developing countries *including India* have been excluded from the remedy action as per the Safeguards Agreement, except in the case relating to import of *carbon flanges from India.* In respect of flanges safeguard duty of 13%, 10% and 7% respectively have been imposed for three years and one day which is applicable from 20th March, 2002. This may have negative impact on our exports of the item to USA even though it is too early to make a quantitative estimate of the extent of the impact of the Safeguard action.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The anti-dumping investigations can be initiated as and when the domestic industry files a fully documented petition to the Designated Authority with sufficient evidence of dumping, injury and a casual link between dumping of imported goods and injury to the domestic industry. The effects of trade distortion caused by dumping can be removed by way of imposing anti-dumping duty. Anti-dumping investigations concerning imports of cold rolled flat products of stainless steel from European Union, Japan, USA and Canada are currently being conducted where provisional anti-dumping duties have already been imposed on 28.12.2001.

Transport assistance to agricultural exports

3680. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved 'Farm to Port' transport assistance for export of agricultural products; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) Under the extant Exim Policy transport assistance is proposed to be made available for export of select agriculture

products like fresh and processed fruits, vegetables, floriculture, poultry and dairy products and products of wheat and rice.

Decline in export of rice

3681. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rice export is declining over the years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the necessary steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) The total quantity and value of rice (basmati and non-basmati) exported during the last three years is as under:—

Qty.: MT
Value: Rs. crores

Year	Basmati Rice		Non-Basmati Rice	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1998-1999	597793	1876.91	4365888	4403.85
1999-2000	638382	1780.34	1257793	1345.58
2000-2001	848919	2141.94	683194	784.16
2001-2002 (April-January, 2002)	494779	1400.97	1009986	937.30
(April-January, 2001)	665635	1682.69	502636	590.86

(SOURCE: DGCI and S, Kolkata)

The exports of rice depend upon international demand and supply position, domestic demand and supply position, international and domestic prices, consumer preference and varieties traded.